

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2410

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, SZ, CH
SUBJ: VISIT OF CHINESE TRADE MISSION, MAY 12-18

1. SUMMARY: SWISS PULLED OUT ALL STOPS EFFORT SELL
29-MEMBER CHINESE DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PREMIER
JU MU AND MIN FOR WATER & ENERGY TSIEN TCHENG-YING
ON EXCELLENCE SWISS TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTS. MISSION
BILLED AS PURELY ECONOMIC. CHINESE INTERESTS
COVERED WIDE RANGE FROM HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
TO WATCHES; ALSO AGRICULTURE. RE ATOMIC POWER,
CHINESE ASSERTED "WE HAVE TIME", HAVE NUCLEAR
TECHNOLOGY, NOT WILLING BUY ANYTHING WHICH INCLUDES
WESTERN CONTROLS, PREFER DEVELOP OWN INDUSTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS MISSION WELL PREPARED. IN ADDITION LEADERS,
WHO, ACCORDING SWISS, STAND HIGH WITH CURRENT LEADER-
SHIP, MISSION INCLUDED ASST CHIEF, WESTERN EUROPE
DIV, MIN FOR AFFAIRS, MEI TCHAO JONG, WHO SERVED IN
GERMANY FOR SEVERAL YEARS: SIN WEI KIN, WHO WAS IN
SWITZERLAND AS AN INTERPRETER FOR 10 YEARS, AS WELL
AS NUMBER EXPERTS ON WESTERN EUROPE AND WESTERN
EUROPEAN LANGUAGES. LIST DELEGATES POUCHED STATE,
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3. CHINESE TOLD SWISS THEY APPRECIATED SWISS NO-NONSENSE APPROACH
WITH EMPHASIS ON BUSINESS. SAID FRENCH OVERDID IT,
WITH MOTORCYCLE ESCORTS, TOO MUCH CULTURE. CHINESE
INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING, BUT PARTICULARLY HEAVY
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (BROWN-BOVERI) AND MACHINERY.

VERY IMPRESSED BY MAAG (ZURICH) WHICH PRODUCES SOME OF LARGEST GEARS IN WORLD. ALSO IN WATCHES; SWISS SAID TRIED PERSUADE CHINESE THEY SHOULD BEGIN WITH NON-ELECTRONIC, DUE PROBLEMS MAINTENANCE, BATTERY CHARGING WHICH REQUIRE LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE NON-EXISTENT CHINA CURRENTLY, EXPENSIVE ESTABLISH.

4. SWISS SHOWED TSIEN TCHEM-YING HYDRO-ELECTRIC SYSTEM FROM HELICOPTERS, STARTING IN ALPS (GRIMSEL) DOWN THROUGH SATIONS, DISTRIBUTION NETWORK. SWISS CONTROL OFFICER FOR MISSION, BENEDIKT VON TACHARNER, DIRECTOR, INTL ECONOMIC(ENERGY) AFFAIRS, DIV OF COMMERCE, TOLD US HE DISCUSSED ATOMIC POWER POTENTIAL AT SOME LENGTH WITH HER. SHE SAID EXISTING CONVENTIONAL RESOURCES ADEQUATE AND IN CASE COAL AND LIL LARGER THAN ANTICIPATED. CHINESE IN NO HURRY DEVELOP ATOMIC POWER INDUSTRY; NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING INVOLVING WESTERN CONTROLS. CHINA HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WILL DEVELOP OWN INDUSTRY IN TIME.

5. CHINESE SAID THEY STUDYING FINANCING, SEEMED MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT INCURRING DEBT IN ORDER CARRY OUT INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION, BUT NOTHING DECIDED AS YET.

6. ALTHOUGH FULLY BRIEFED POLITICAL ISSUES, IN SESSION WITH FONMIN PIERRE AUBERT, DID NOT GO BEYOND CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENT LINE. ASKED ABOUT AFGHANISTAN COUP, SAID "CHINESE WELL INFORMED IN ADVANCE" FULL STOP; COULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO DISCUSSION MEANING OF COUP FOR AFGHANISTAN OR NEIGHBORS.

7. SWISS AND CHINESE GOT ON WELL. KU MU AND TISEN TCHENG-YING CHARACTERIZED AS PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY, WELL-INFORMED, TIRELESS. OTHERS IN DELEGATION FLAGGING BY END OF STAY; NOT LEADERS. KU MU INSISTED, SINCE NOTHING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 14, A SUNDAY, ON USING THAT DAY VISIT CHINESE MISSION GENEVA, WHERE HE GREETED EVERY MEMBER OF STAFF PERSONALLY AND INDIVIDUALLY.

8. SWISS WELL PLEASED WITH MISSION, EXPECT SIGNIFICANT SALES PESTICIDES, ELECTRICAL, MACHINE TOOLS, WATCH-MAKING MACHINERY TO RESULT. WARNER

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